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THE FIFTY-SECOND

(2ND SURVEY)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

WITH

Tabular Returns of Mortality,

Housing, etc.,

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

BY

JOHN STEEDMAN,

M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.

HEXHAM :
R. ROBSON & SONS, Printers, Beaumont Street.
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HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1925

(SURVEY REPORT).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
HEXHAM.

To Chairman and Members of Hexham Rural District Council.

As required by the Sanitary Officer's Order, once again I place before you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for your district.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health, dated 10th December, 1925, this report is in the nature of a Survey Report, and is supposed to deal with—

(a) The measure of progress in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of Public Health,

(b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the Public Health service of the area (e.g., Housing, Water Supply, Sewerage, Scavenging or Refuse Disposal, Food Inspection, or the service affecting the environment of the inhabitants), etc., and

(c) Any further action of importance in the organisation or development of Public Health service contemplated by the Local Authority, or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

The subjects to be dealt with in this report fall under the following main headings—

A. Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.
B. General Provision of Health Service in the Area.
C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
D. Housing.
E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
F. Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.
G. Maternity and Child Welfare.

The above headings cover a very wide field, and, while some progress is certainly to be reported, it is to be borne in mind that owing to depression in trade and high costs of living, many schemes which are in all respects desirable have not been carried out, and it would require a very brave man to push for the completion of the carrying out of all of these in these times, and under existing circumstances.

A. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA. The Hexham Rural District is made up of 196,809 acres and is, I believe, the second largest Rural District in England and Wales. It is sub-divided into the following districts :—

	Area	Population 1911 Census	Population 1921	Estimated 1925*
Allendale ...	51,833	4,907	5,916	21,140
Bywell ...	46,638	6,992	8,031	
Chollerton ...	50,531	5,380	5,497	
Hexham ...	47,807	4,608	5,141	
Whole District	196,809	21,887	24,585	

* Registrar General's Estimate.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.—These features have been given in previous reports, and as they have not suffered any material change, I take the liberty of reprinting the same from a previous report. As these particulars can scarcely be classed under a heading of a Medical Report, and as I do not profess to be an expert geologist, I beg to express my indebtedness to the late Professor Lebour for much of the information given.

The principal feature of the district is of course the Valley of the Tyne and of the South Tyne, by which it is divided into Northern and Southern halves of fairly equal dimensions. The *Thalweg* of the East and West Valley is necessarily the line of lowest surface level in the region, and has a fall varying from

about 13 feet per mile above Hexham, to less than 6 or 7 feet per mile below, as far as Wylam. The Northern half of the district is itself divided by the Valley of the North Tyne, with a fall of about 13 feet per mile. The region south of the main Tyne Valley is traversed by the south to north valleys of the Allen, Devil's Water, and smaller streams, and of their respective tributaries, whose sources are situated within the district on the high ground of the Allendale Common, and Blanchland Moor. The Derwent River, for several miles of its course runs in a deeply eroded valley, and forms part of the Southern Boundary, which there coincides with that of the County of Northumberland. Speaking generally, the ground within the area ranges from between nearly 2,000 feet on the one hand, and 37 feet on the other, above sea-level, most of it being between 400 and 800 feet. In Coalcleugh, at the top of the West Allen Valley is situated the highest inhabited hamlet in England. It is therefore a region of fairly high ground, copiously drained by numerous rapid rivers and streams, whose valleys, often broad, are in general steep-sided, and sometimes even precipitous and gorge-like, as in the dales of the North Tyne at Warden, and the Devil's Elbow of the South Tyne at Allerwash, of the Main Tyne at Thornbrough, of the Allen at the Iron Gates, of the Devil's Water at Swallowship, and elsewhere. Notwithstanding this occasional scarped character of the valleys, much of the surface occupied by them is made up of (a) Broad alluvial flats ("haughs") filling in the loop of the winding streams with loam, sand, and shingle ; (b) similar, but older, terraced accumulations rising tier above tier up the lower flanks to—in some places, as between Hexham and Haydon Bridge—a height of 300-400 feet above sea level. The high gravel terraces of this kind are made up almost entirely of sand and pebbles belonging to the Glacial Drift, and many of the ancient settlements are situated upon them, wholly or in part, such as Corbridge, Haydon Bridge, Humshaugh, etc.

The glacial gravels and sand just mentioned often everlie the Glacier Boulder Clay, blue or brown, stiff and impervious, from which they are partly derived, and this Boulder Clay is to be found irregulary distributed, up most of the valleys and over the lower ground generally, but seldom above the 1000 feet contour line.

All the rest of the district—all of it that is free from alluvial deposit (whether of river origin or peat) and Glacial Drift—is made up of sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous System with later igneous rock injected among them. In the order of their predominance these rocks consist of :—

(*a*) GRITS AND SANDSTONES (Locally "Freestone").—These occur everywhere and are the thickest and most widely spread members of all three of the chief groups of the system, viz :— The Coal-measures, the Millstone Grit, and the Bernician, or Carboniferous, Limestone Series. They are the chief water bearing strata, and yield the invariably used building stone of Hexhamshire and Tynedale. All the high, peaty heather clad moorland country standing on the local watersheds between the various dales, is formed of this type.

(*b*) SHALES (Locally "Metal" or "Plate"),—Those beds intervening between the harder strata such as the Sandstones occuring throughout the Carboniferous divisions, cause most of the softer concave features of the region, and to their easier erosion are due most of the many small waterfalls which so picturesquely diversify the burn scenery—a shale bed being in almost every case undercut beneath the sandstone stratum over which the burn falls—as at Dilston, for instance. The junction of these shales with sandstone also determines the occurance of lines of natural springs, and the frequent presence in them of ironstone often renderes the waters chalybeate.

(*c*) LIMESTONES. These are found only in the lowest of the three large divisions of the Carboniferous system here. They occur as comparatively thin beds, rarely attaining 30 feet, and most of them much thinner, at many horizons in the Bernician Series, interbedded with Sandstone, Shales, and Coal. Their outcrops are characterised by special vegitation, finer herbage, a warmer surface, and often by quarries and lime kilns, and it is in them that the lead veins of the region (Allenheads, Haydon Bridge, Newbrough, and Blanchland mining areas) have yeilded most ore. They are responsible for the hardness which characterizes much of the water.

(*d*) COAL.—The lower seams of the Coal measures occur within the district in its Eastern portion, crossing the Valley of the Tyne between Stocksfield and Ovingham. They are largely worked and are the reason of the mining population of Prudhoe, Mickley, Wylam, and neighbouring villages. The same seams are found again in a narrow out-lier running from Whittonstall to Grey Mare Hill, and again an outcrop on the hill facing west above the New Ridley Road, at Stocksfield. These seams are also found along the north side of a great fault known as the Stublick Dyke, as a reries of small coalfields having an East and West trend, and running from a mile or two to the south of the Tyne at Hexham, to the high ground immediately south of Haydon Bridge. Several much older seams of coal occur also (as regards England, only in the County of Northumberland on

such a scale) in the Bernician Series, and valuable collieries have been, from time to time, opened out to work them. The size of Acomb is due to coal of this age worked near that village, and smaller collieries of the same kind are, or have been worked at Fourstones, Fallowfield, Halton, Whittington, Gunnerton, Thorngrafton, and other places.

(*e*) GANNISTER AND FIRE-CLAYS.—Both occur in the district, Gannister in the lower Coal Measures beneath the Brockwell Seam to the South East of Stocksfield, and at Fourstones, and Fireclays beneath almost all the coal seams at whatever horizon, as well as independent beds, as in the neighbourhood of Corbridge.

From the point at which the Roman Wall enters the district from the west, to Tepper Moor, and thence in a somewhat broken line by Gunnerton to Throckington, there runs the prominent outcrop of the great intrusive sheet of igneous rock (Basalt or Whinstone) which is one of the most remarkable topographical and geological features of the district. It is known as the Great Whin Sill, is here about 100 feet thick, and is quarried for purposes of paving and road-making generally.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES IN THE AREA.—The number of inhabited houses in the area, according to the 1921 census, is 5,137. Of these, 5,040 were occupied by one family, 90 were occupied by two families, and 7 by three or more.

Number of Private or Separate Families.—The total number of private families housed in the 5,137 houses was 5,242.

Rateable Value and Sum Represented by Penny Rate.—The Rateable Value of the district is £235,836, and the Assessable Value is £153,922, from which the Penny Rate is £641 6s. 10d.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT: The chief industry of the district is Agriculture. Stone quarrying is also extensively carried out, both in the North and South halves of the district, for building and road making purposes. Barytes is mined and exported from the Fourstones area. Coal Mining has always been an extensive industry in the Eastern part of the district and on the extreme West, but since the date of the last Survey Report, small mines have been opened out in the Gunnerton area, and also at the site of a disused quarry at Haydon Bridge. In the Allendale area lead mining is still carried out, but on a much reduced scale. I am led to understand, however, that this reduction in output is due entirely to high cost of production and not lack of material.

In addition to the above there are several minor industries carried on, amongst which engineering is well represented.

In the Wylam, Ovingham, Stocksfield and Corbridge districts, the area is largely residential, and in the higher reaches of the Tyne, particularly Allendale district, the area is regarded in the light of a Health Resort.

In none of the afore-mentioned industries has a case of an "occupational" disease been reported to the Sanitary Authority.

Vital Statistics.—The final transfers from the Registrar General's Office not being to-hand at the time of compiling this report, the figures given below are those of cases actually registered in the district and do not take into account transfers to, or from, the area. The corrected figures which take these transfers into account will be found in the statistical tables at the end of the report.

BIRTHS.—The actual number of Births registered in the district during the year 1925 is 345. This compares with 343 during the previous year. Of that number 185 were males and 160 females. These give an uncorrected Birth Rate of 15·5.

These figures show a steady decrease from 1920. The explanation of this may be due to severel influencing causes, such as existing social conditions, existing housing conditions, late marriages, or, what is probably as much to blame as any other cause, deliberate restriction of the size of families. Any further discussion of this would be out of place in this report.

The uncorrected Births are distributed throughout the district as follows :—

Sub-District	Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Both
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A ...	1924	32	37	—	1	32	38	70
	1925	*41*	*29*	*2*	*1*	*43*	*30*	*73*
B ...	1924	61	67	3	2	64	69	133
	1925	*53*	*52*	*5*	*1*	*58*	*53*	*111*
C ...	1924	37	38	1	3	38	41	79
	1925	*40*	*40*	*1*	*1*	*41*	*41*	*82*
H ...	1924	31	27	—	3	31	30	61
	1925	*41*	*35*	*2*	*1*	*43*	*36*	*79*
Total for District	1924	161	169	4	9	165	178	343
	1925	*175*	*156*	*10*	*4*	*185*	*160*	*345*

DEATHS.—During the year there have been actually registered in the district 254 Deaths, as compared with 248 last year. These figures give an uncorrected Death Rate of 11·4. Of these, a certain number will have to be transferred away, and a certain other number, who, while belonging to this district, have died elsewhere, will have to be added. The corrected figures, after taking these transfers into account, will be found on the statistical table at the end of the report.

The following table classifies these Deaths according to their age groups and in each sub-district, and also into adult, infant, and uncertified Deaths :—

From January 1st to December 31st, 1925.

District		Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Total	
Age Group :							
0—1	...	4	2	4	1	11	
1—2	...	1	1	—	1	3	
2—5	...	2	2	—	—	4	
5—15	...	1	1	—	1	3	
15—25	...	2	2	3	6	13	
25—45	...	10	6	4	22	42	
45—65	...	8	18	9	16	51	
Over 65	...	40	38	25	24	127	
Totals all ages		68	70	45	71	254	
Uncertified	M.	3	6	4	4	17	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	
Infant	M.	4	1	3	—	8	254
	F.	—	1	1	1	3	
Adult	M.	31	36	16	38	121	
	F.	33	32	25	32	122	

The chief causes of Death are set out on the following table, classified in sub-districts :—

Causes of Death	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Total
Measles	...	1	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	2
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	1	...	4	5
Meningitis	1	...	1	...	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	5	4	21	34*
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1	1	1	1	4
Cancer	5	10	2	12	29
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	9	3	4	2	18
Heart Disease	15	14	10	7	46
Arterio Sclerosis	3	5	2	3	13
Bronchitis	3	3	2	1	9
Pneumonia	3	2	4	1	10
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1	...	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	2	2
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	1
Nephritis	...	2	2	1	5
Prematurity, etc.	3	2	2	1	8
Suicide	...	1	...	...	1
Violence	2	5	2	1	10
Senile Decay	3	7	5	...	15
Other Defined Diseases	12	6	4	10	32
Ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	1	1
Totals ...	68	70	45	71	254

* Includes Wooley Sanatorium.

Infant Mortality Rate.—The Infant Mortality Rate is calculated from the proportion of Deaths of children under the age of one year, to each thousand Births registered- The total number of Deaths registered in the district under one year is eleven (11), and this gives an uncorrected Infant Mortality Rate of 31·8 per thousand Births registered, that is to say, that out of every thousand children born, practically 32 die during the first year.

Of these Infant Deaths, seven took place during the first week (four being premature) and eight during the first month (this includes the seven previously mentioned). The remaining three died within the first siz months. The analysis of these Deaths is given on table 4 at the end of the report.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—This Death Rate is calculated upon the number of Deaths which occurred from the following diseases:—Smallpox, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, and Enteritis under two years. The total number of Deaths from these causes are as follows :—

Measles	1
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria	1

and the Zymotic Death Rate so calculated is 0'18 per thousand population.

AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF.—According to the Ministry of Health Circular, the Medical Officer of Health is asked to state the amount of Poor Law Relief granted throughout the Sanitary District. This seems rather strange, owing to the fact that Poor Law Relief is granted by the Board of Guardians, and not by the Sanitary Authority. In the case of your district, the area covered by the Board of Guardians does not coincide with the area covered by you as the Sanitary Authority. I am, however, indebted to the courtesy of the Clerk to the Guardians both for the information herein given and for the information with regard to the Rateable Value of the district and the product of the Penny Rate already given. I am informed that the amount expended in the Rural District in Poor Law Relief for the year ended 31st March last was £4,845 19s. 5d.

Under the same heading of the circular, I am asked to state the extent to which Hospitals and other forms of gratuitous relief are utilized. No such Hospitals or other forms of Medical Relief exist in the area. Use is made of the General Infirmary in Newcastle, the Fleming Memorial Hospital for Children, the Eye Infirmary in Newcastle, and the War Memorial Hospital in the town of Hexham.

There have been no special noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity in the area during the period under review, and, not to my knowledge, is there any condition or environment that has any prejudical effect on health.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Hospitals provided by Local Authorities are :—

(1) TUBERCULOSIS.—Two Institutions for the treatment of this disease exist in your area. The Northumberland County Council have a Sanatorium at Wooley, which contains 144 beds. Cases are admitted to this Institution from all parts of the County area. During the year 24 cases were treated from your district. Juvenile cases of Tuberculosis from your area are, for the most part, treated at Stannington.

The Council of the City of Newcastle have a Sanatorium situated in this area, at Camphill, Gunnerton, but this Institution does not, as a rule, receive cases, except from the Newcastle area. Notwithstanding this, however, one case from Wylam was admitted, by private arrangement, during the year. This Institution contains 90 beds.

(2) MATERNITY.—There is no provision made in the Rural District for the treatment of Maternity cases.

(3) CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS.—No hospitals for the treatment of children exist in the area of the District Council. Such are either treated privately in the Hexham War Memorial Hospital, or the Fleming Memorial Hospital in Newcastle.

(4) Edgewell Isolation Hospital situate at Prudhoe. This Hospital is maintained jointly by the Hexham Rural and Prudhoe Urban Districts, and nominally contains 12 beds. It was built as a temporary hospital about 27 years ago. This hospital is in a state of dilapidation, and it is long past time for it to be replaced by a larger and more up to date establishment. As it stands now, it is a constant source of expense for repairs, and it is totally inadequate as an Infectious Hospital for the area which it serves. When any case is in requiring nursing, one of the 12 beds has to be occupied by the nurse, thus leaving 11 beds only for over 33,000 population. Moreover, only one class of Infectious case can be treated at any one time, the result being in practice that Scarlet Fever cases are removed to this hospital up to the limit of its accommodation, whilst Diphtheria, Enteric, and other forms of Infectious Disease have either to be treated at home, or if one is lucky, arrangements made for treatment elsewhere. I cannot help feeling, and experience here and elsewhere bears this out, that, could the cases of Diphtheria be removed to hospital for treatment, many secondary cases would never occur.

As I have remarked in previous reports, this Council has some excuse for this condition of affairs, in as much as since before the Great War they have had plans made and approved for the erection of an up to date hospital, but it seems well nigh

impossible to obtain a site for the erection of this building. I would urge, however, that you as a Sanitary Authority should not desist from your endeavour on this account, as I cannot impress upon you too strongly the urgent necessity of a hospital into which more than one class of case can be removed, and treated in, at the same time. Undoubtedly this would materially reduce the incidence of Infectious Disease in your district, and I go further and have no hesitation in saying it would be the means of saving life.

In England and Wales during the year 1924, the Incidence Rate for Scarlet Fever was 2·36 per thousand population, whilst in your district it was 2·79. The Rate for London for the same period and calculated on the same basis was 2·5. In a district such as this is, these figures should at least be reversed. As a solution to this problem, I would suggest, as I have done before, that a larger hospital should be erected in a central position to serve a combination of Sanitary Districts and administered by a Joint Hospital Board. This, I honestly believe, would be much cheaper, and from the administrative point of view much preferable to multiplying small hospitals.

(5) The Lightwater Smallpox Hospital, situated 3½ miles south of Hexham, in the Dipton Wood. This hospital has 12 beds, and serves the Hexham Rural and Prudhoe Urban areas. With the exception of a few weeks, this building has been in use since the beginning of April, when cases of Smallpox were admitted from the Prudhoe Urban District and later the Hexham Rural. Although this hospital has stood empty 17 years after its erection, within a few days after opening, it was found to be inadequate for the Prudhoe District alone, and the assistance of other hospitals had to be obtained. This again shows the futility of erecting small hospitals separately. Had there been a larger hospital for the use of combined areas, all the patients could have been accommodated without any delay, as at that time all the cases were confined to the Prudhoe Urban district.

At the instigation of the County Council, a meeting was held during the year, of representatives of five Sanitary areas in this part of the county, and a proposal was brought forward that such a hospital should be erected and run on the lines suggested, but to be confined to Smallpox.

In all seriousness I recommend that you should wholeheartedly support this scheme, and further, by all means in your power try to push it on. You must remember that you have under your care the second largest Rural area in England and

Wales, and should a real epidemic of Smallpox break out in any part of the district, your Smallpox Hospital would be swamped and you have nothing to fall back upon, as other districts are now very loth indeed to give up any of their accommodation, as they all realize that they might be in the same predicament themselves, and this, to me, seems the most potent argument for a larger institution with more than your proportion of beds available, if required. There is not a question of doubt that owing to the present vaccination state of the country, Smallpox has come to stay, and until the public can be educated into a realization of the real necessity of vaccination, you must be prepared to cope with the cases that are bound to crop up.

It may not be out of place here, with reference to vaccination, to once again refer to the fact that vaccination, the one and only safeguard against Smallpox, is not in the hands of the Sanitary Authority, but in the hands of the administration of Poor Law, viz., Boards of Guardians. To my mind this is a most anomalous position. One understands that the prime duty of a Sanitary Authority is, firstly, to prevent, and, secondly, to stamp out, infectious disease in their district. Whilst this is true, you are deprived by law of the only weapon, both of defence and offence. One might as well have sent the contemptible little army across to Belgium in 1914 without arms and equipment, and handed these arms and equipment over to someone else who had very little interest in the matter.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate and Homeless Children.—There is no provision made, either institutional or otherwise, in the district for any of these except in the Workhouse, administered by the Board of Guardians of the Hexham Union, which the Rural District is part.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases :—A horse drawn "fever van" is owned by the Council and kept at the livery stables in Corbridge. This is hopelessly out of date, and once again I would emphasize the need for an up-to-date motor ambulance. At present the Job-master uses a closed motor car for removal of infectious cases (including Smallpox), which I presume is also used for private hire after disinfection. This should not be, and the responsibility rests with the Sanitary Authority should infection be spread by this means. For such a large area as this, a horse drawn vehicle is, in many instances, absolutely useless on account of the time taken on the road. This in itself would, in some cases, be sufficient to prevent a case being

removed when it ought to be. A motor ambulance, when all is said and done, is not such a costly affair as many people think, and could also be used for the removal of infective clothes, bedding, etc., to Lightwater for disinfection, instead of having the same destroyed.

(b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases:—No ambulance is provided exclusively for this district, but, when necessary, the motor ambulance maintained by the British Red Cross and Order of St. John of Jerusalem can be called upon. This ambulance is available at a fixed charge per mile, and is made use of throughout the district.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—No alteration of these, as far as is known, has been made since last report. No such centres are provided by this Council.

In the town of Hexham there is a Tuberculosis Dispensary carried on as part of the County Council Scheme. This serves the area of the Hexham Rural District in so far as this disease is concerned. There is also in the Hexham Urban area a School Clinic, also maintained by the County Council, and this serves a certain part of the Rural District as well.

A Child Welfare Centre is carried on in a small cottage at Branch End, Stocksfield, under the supervision of a Newcastle Medical man, and attended by one of the County Council Health Visitors. This centre does good work, and is much appreciated by the mothers in that area. If this centre is needed, and if it does good work there, I hold that similar centres are needed elsewhere in the district, as the conditions are precisely the same. I believe, as I have said repeatedly in previous reports, that such centres should be opened in areas like Corbridge and Haydon Bridge, each of which would be central for a large surrounding part of the district.

The question of Infant Mortality is one of the most difficult any local authority has to deal with, and it is an index of the social and sanitary conditions of the district. When I say sanitary, I do not use this word in relation to ashpits, privies, or drainage systems particularly, but in a wider sense of general administration. It may interest you to know that during the year 1924, the Infant Mortality Rate for the Rural District of Hexham was 70 per thousand, in comparison with the same rate in the City of London of 69.

I have been criticised in the past for making use of this argument towards the establishment of Infant Welfare Centres, and I take this opportunity of stating, that while I do

not hold that the establishment of Welfare Centres throughout the district will abolish your high Infant Mortality Rate, I do most certainly hold that no stone should be left unturned in trying to achieve that end. I am told that low wages, high cost of living, overcrowding, etc., and various other causes all contribute to this high rate, and in this I quite agree, and it would seem that it is outside your province or power to ameliorate those causes, but it is within your power to take this step recommended, and by so doing you will have done what little you could towards saving infant life in your district. It is said that a nation marches on the feet of its children, and you must face the fact that out of every 100 children born in 1925, thirteen died before reaching the age of one year.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—As already mentioned, a dispensary for this disease is carried on at the Hexham War Memorial Hospital, under the administration of the County Council. No such provision is made in the Rural District itself, all cases for Dispensary treatment being referred to the Centre in Hexham town.

Day Nurseries.—No Day Nurseries, School Clinics or Treatment Centres for Venereal Disease are carried on in the Rural District of Hexham.

Public Health Staff of the Local Authority.—The Public Health Staff of the Local Authority comprises one whole time Medical Officer and two whole time Sanitary Inspectors, both of whom hold certificates, and one lady clerk. Half of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and each Sanitary Inspector is recoverable under the Local Government Act, 1888, sec. 24 (2) C.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

A. General.—No provision is made in your district for Professional Nursing in the home.

B. For Infectious Disease.—Again no provision is made for nursing in the home of the patients. A certain number of cases each year avail themselves of the Tynedale Nursing Association Nurses, both for general and infectious nursing. To those who subscribe regularly to this Association, nurses are sent out when required at very reasonable charges, and I feel that this Association only requires to be better known to be taken advantage of to a much larger extent than is done at present.

In a large scattered rural area such as that under your care, it would seem well nigh impossible at present to make official provision for nursing in the home.

MIDWIVES.—No Midwives are employed, or subsidised by, this Authority. There are in the area a certain number of certificated midwives, who practise under the supervision of the Central Midwives' Board, and these are under the medical supervision of the County Medical Officer. During the year, 15 such gave notice of intention to practise in your district.

CHEMICAL WORK.—No official arrangement exists in this area for Chemical Work carried out by your Council. For the most part this work is confined to analysis of potable waters, and you are fortunately situated with an Analytical Chemist in Hexham who, in the past, has proved fully competent to deal with any material of which you have required analysis.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

A. ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the Rural District :—

1. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act (1890), Part III., September 22nd, 1891.

2. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act (1907), Part IV., Sections 52, 60, 62, and 63. May 27th, 1919.

3. Infectious Diseases Prevention Act (1890). Dec. 23rd, 1890.

4. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act (1907).
   Part II., Sections 15 and 25, subject to provisions of Section 33.
   Part III., Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 46 and 49.
   Part IV., Sections 65 and 68.
   Section 43 in Part III. to be in force in the Parish of Broomhaugh, and
   Section 47 in Part III. in the Parishes of Allendale, Broomley and Wylam.

These additional Sections of the 1907 Act came into force on the 28th day of November, 1921.

B. BYE-LAWS IN FORCE.

1. Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances. 1900.

2. Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings. 1913.

3. Bye-laws with respect to Slaughter-houses. 1920.

4. Bye-laws with respect to Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements, the removal of House Refuse, and the Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits, and Cesspools. 1921.

5. Bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar Structures used for Human Habitation. These Bye-laws received the approval and seal of the Ministry on the 8th November, 1922.

c. Regulations in Force.

Under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, regulations were drawn up in 1896 with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company supply several villages in the Eastern portion of the district, including Wylam, Ovingham and Stocksfield. This supply is highly satisfactory. It has practically no solvent action on lead pipes, and is not exposed to any risk of contamination. The gathering ground is on the boundary of this district. The chief reservoirs are at Whittle Dene, Hallington and Colt Crag.

Riding Mill.—This village is supplied from a Spring situated to the south. This is a private supply, but arrangements are pending for taking this over and protecting it from pollution. The water runs in an open channel for a considerable distance into a small reservoir, whence it gravitates to the consumer. This supply is very prone to contamination, and is visibly polluted after heavy rain. A number of villas erected on the building estate are supplied by springs which collect into a tank and thence to these houses. This supply would not be adequate for the whole village, and a purer supply is required here.

Hedley.—The supply for this village is pumped from the valley to the north of the village to a reservoir situated to the south. The supply is fairly good, but insufficient in quantity to tide over any drought period.

Whittonstall.—Since the last Survey Report the Consett Iron Co. have sunk a deep well in the quarry at the East end of the village, and have there installed a pump. This water is of excellent quality and adequate quantity, but owing to the heavy lift is not used as often as it should be. Unfortunately, in a sense, there are one or two shallow private wells in the village, which the inhabitants are more prone to use, as the water is easier lifted. Endeavours are being made to induce the Consett Iron Co. to install some form of mechanical power to raise this water, and I have not yet quite abandoned hope that this end may in time be achieved.

CORBRIDGE.—The main village of Corbridge, situated on the north side of the River Tyne, obtains its supply from Holley Hall Farm and Shaw Well. This water is pure. wholesome, plentiful in quantity, and has no action on lead piping. That part of the village on the south side of the river is supplied from the Snowdrop Well and another spring. This water is very soft in quality, and contains Carbonic Acid in excess, and as a result, has a definite action on lead piping and also on iron utensils.

Since the period covered by the last Survey Report, provisions have been made for treating this water at the reservoir, and to a large extent this erosive action has been overcome. It must not be forgotten, however, that this requires constant attention, otherwise the treatment will fail to act. This has been pointed out to the Parochial Committee, and up to the present the arrangement has worked satisfactorily.

COLWELL.—This village is supplied by a spring on the side of the Hexham road. The quality and quantity have so far given no ground for complaint. There is at present a proposal to provide a standpipe supply for this village, but no definite scheme has yet been formulated.

GREAT WHITTINGTON.—The source is a spring situated to the north-west of the village, and is collected in a reservoir near the school. It is served through stand pipes, and is satisfactory in every way, and a great improvement on the old supply, which had to be carried nearly a quarter of a mile.

WALL.—This village has an excellent water supply. It comes from springs situated to the north-east of the village, passes a covered-in reservoir, thence to the consumer. It is of excellent quality and sufficient quantity.

BARRASFORD.—This village is supplied by a spring to the south of the whinstone quarry. This is collected into a tank and gravitates to the consumers. It is pure and plentiful.

GUNNERTON.—This village is supplied from a spring near the burnside. It goes direct from the spring to a chamber fitted with a tap. It is of good quality and ample quantity. There are also a number of private wells and springs. In this village, also, there is a proposal to provide a piped supply which will gravitate to the consumers. This scheme is also in a nebulous stage at present.

SIMONBURN.—The supply for here comes from a spring on the north-west of the village, and is led by pipes to the consumers' premises. This is a private supply. There have been no complaints regarding this water, either in respect of quantity or quality.

ANICK.—This supply is privately owned. It is a spring on the north side of the village. There have never been any complaints of this water.

ACOMB.—This supply comes from Silver Hill and is augmented near the reservoir by a supply drawn from Salmon's Well on the roadside, near the farm of that name. The Silver Hill supply is of excellent quality, but in the Summer the quantity is apt to be short. In 1923, the water from the Salmon's Well spring was lost. Extensive works were carried out to recapture the spring, and these were, fortunately, crowned with success. These two supplies are collected in a reservoir and gravitate to the consumers. The water in Acomb village has been found to have a distinct solvent action upon zinc, and at one time water was stored in the houses of most of the inhabitants in galvanised iron pails. Since this action was discovered, the use of these zinc pails has been abolished, and during the early hours of the day the Acomb water carriers can easily be known by their enamelled iron buckets.

NEWTON.—This is a supply direct from the spring through pipes to the consumers. The quality is good, but the supply is insufficient.

OVINGTON.—This supply comes from springs situated in a field about a quarter of a mile to the north of the village. There have been several complaints about this water, and analysis shows it to be liable to surface pollution. The collecting tank is situated in a position which lays it open to surface water, and requires attention. It is supplied to the consumers through stand-pipes in the roadway, and would seem to be becoming insufficient for the needs of the inhabitants.

HORSLEY.—This village has one pump on the side of the main road in the centre of the village. There has been no question of the quality of this supply, and the quantity is well sustained. There is also a well in the Blacksmith's Yard, which has recently been cemented, and is satisfactory. There are also some private wells.

BLANCHLAND.—The supply for this village comes from a spring near the quarry on Holtburn Hill. It is piped to a reservoir near the village, whence it gravitates to the consumer. It is a private supply, is of excellent quality, and sufficient quantity.

HUMSHAUGH.—This supply comes from springs lying to the north-west of the village, which discharge into a reservoir, whence it gravitates to the houses supplied. It is a soft water,

with slight lead-solvent action, and would be improved by addition of limestone at the collecting tank. It is very pure. The quantity here is not excessive.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—This village is supplied from springs near Nubbock, with a reservoir in the neighbourhood of Elrington Hall. The supply as far as the intake tank is both pure and plentiful, but owing to reduction in diameter, the service pipe does not carry off as much as the intake, and the resultant supply in the village is deficient in quantity. The water is there for the taking, and of excellent quality.

FOURSTONES AND NEWBROUGH.—Part of Fourstones is supplied by a spring on Frankham Farm. This supplies Kiln Cottages, and Station Cottages and premises. Fourstones Farm and cottages are supplied by a spring situated to the north of the farm. The Newbrough School area, along with Butt Bank Cottages, are supplied from a spring situated to the north of the school premises. This is a good supply and fairly adequate in quantity. Beside the stand-pipe from this spring, in the neighbourhood of the School, there was a runner of water which was often used as an auxiliary supply. This became contaminated from a tip of ashpit refuse placed over the channel, and the owner, on representation being made to him, immediately cut off this supply, at the same time altering the system, giving better distribution of water between the higher region on the main road, and the lower, at Butt Bank Cottages. The main portion of Newbrough Village is supplied from a spring on the Newbrough Hall Estate, which gives a pure and plentiful supply. The few houses at Low Stonecroft, are supplied from the spring at Low Stonecroft House.

ALLENDALE.—Since the date of the last Survey Report, the Park Allotments Scheme has been carried into effect, since when there has been no complaint of shortage of water in the Allendale district. Allendale, Thornley Gate, and Catton are all supplied from the same sources, viz., the Park Gate supply on the east side of the valley, and Park Allotments on the west side. In addition to these, there is also in use the original Catton supply from Sunnyside, supplied through a separate piped system to the village, and also connected with the main piped supply to Catton: there is still the reservoir on Hope Farm, which was put in during previous shortages, in an attempt to maintain an uninterrupted supply for Catton.

ALLENHEADS.—Part of this village is supplied from Woodhead. This supply is in every way satisfactory. There are several separate wells and springs.

SLALEY.—Since the last Survey Report, the water supply scheme has been carried out in the village of Slaley. and has proved a great boon to the inhabitants. So much is this the case, that a further extension scheme is now being put before the Ministry of Health, to carry this water, through extensions, in three different directions, to provide water where either no, or a very defective, supply is at present. These extensions have been a question of much local debate, chiefly on the point of ways and means, a matter which does not come within the purview of this report, and I think the Council have been well advised to ask the Ministry to grant the necessary powers to carry out these extensions, on the grounds of Public Health. There is plenty of water available at the source, and I am informed that the carrying capacity of the pipes is sufficient to serve these extensions, and, in view of these facts, it would seem a great pity if others, at present just outside the reach of the carrying main, should have to cart water in the Summer-time for their domestic needs. As I have reported on several occasions with reference to this, I have no hesitation in stating that, in my opinion, the proposed extensions of the water supply are urgently required. As has been said in the course of these numerous debates, there are other houses in the area where improved water service is necessary. This is perfectly true, but I cannot see that this is any argument against providing an efficient supply to those houses, which is, at present, by these extensions, possible to carry out.

GENERAL.—In a Rural District such as this is, it can easily be understood that there are several small hamlets and isolated houses which cannot, for practical reasons, be connected to any public water supply. Most of these premises have their own private supply, collecting, in some places, from springs; in others, from shallow wells; and, in many cases, simply fell water. Some of these must, of necessity, be liable to intermittant pollution, but, wherever such cases are found, endeavours have been made to have the water protected, and your staff have, on all occasions, given every assistance in their power to the private owners for this work to be carried out.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Hexham Rural District is almost bisected by the Tyne Valley, which runs east and west, about a mile above Hexham. The North and South Tynes join and the North Tyne enters the district at Wark, and the South Tyne, as far as the Rural District is concerned, is a continuation of the main Tyne Valley. On the south side of the Main

Valley, in the Allendale district, we have the Rivers East and West Allen, which flow, practically, from the boundary of the County of Durham, in a parallel direction northwards, joining, near Staward, and continuing on to the South Tyne, opposite Whitechapel.

A large part of the south-eastern boundary is formed by the River Derwent.

There are numerous smaller streams throughout the district, those on the south being tributary to the River Tyne, those on the west being tributary to the North Tyne, and, in the eastern part of Chollerton, we have the source of several streams which find their way, directly or indirectly, to the sea coast, amongst the former being the River Blythe. It will thus be seen that the district is well drained naturally, and only in a very few places do we find bogs, or the opposite, unwatered areas.

The main streams of the area are rapid flowing, and show little evidence of sewage contamination, but some of the smaller streams have, in the past, shown tendency towards this during periods of drought. Where this has been found, steps have been taken, as far as possible, to have this remedied, but it is a very difficult matter, under existing conditions, to launch any new scheme of sewerage treatment, or purification.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

ACOMB.—Since the last Survey Report, an up-to-date Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Scheme has been carried out. This was completed at the end of 1922, and has removed all cause of complaint from the sewage pollution of the Acomb Burn. This scheme cost £5,690, and, although this has been a big drain on the resources of the Parish, I feel confident that this is money well spent, and the village of Acomb has now a thoroughly up-to-date and efficient Sewage Disposal Scheme, which is bound to be for the good of the health of the inhabitants.

ALLENDALE.—There are two main sewer outlets discharging into the River East Allen, in an untreated condition. There are four small sewerage works, which deal with the sewerage from different parts. These are situated, respectively, at the north-west side of Wentworth Place; at the Dene; at the Lane Foot, Catton; and at the burn at Catton Village. A scheme was sanctioned in 1913 to collect the sewage from Allendale, and treat it, but this was suspended with the intention of introducing a more comprehensive scheme, to include Catton, and so reduce the number of smaller works. This was held up on account of the war, and ought now to be proceeded with.

In December last, an inquiry was held by the Ministry of Health, with a view to borrow the necessary money to carry out this more comprehensive scheme, and, at the time of writing this report, the result of the inquiry is still awaited.

BROOMHAUGH AND RIDING.—No further progress can be reported with reference to the partially completed scheme for this area. At present, the main sewer outlet is situated to the north of Broomhaugh, where untreated sewage is discharged into the Tyne. Smaller outlets also discharge into the Riding Burn from the Riding part of the district. This scheme was stopped during the war by a stand-still order from the Ministry of Health, and, owing to the death of the contractor, the work was not resumed. There is now a proposal on foot, that this scheme can be completed without the use of a pumping plant, and, as the approved scheme includes provision for pumping, a deadlock seems to have arisen. I would suggest, as I have done before, that, in order to decide the matter one way or the other, this question should be referred to the Ministry of Health, and, if necessary, another inquiry asked for, as, if the latter proposal is practical, it may not yet be too late to modify this scheme. This question does not, however, come under the purview of this report, but I strongly urge, for reasons set out in my last report, that some decision should be come to with regard to this matter and the scheme hastened to completion. The partially built works are becoming more and more delapidated—partly through want of use—and the Riding Burn is, during the late Summer season, little more than an open sewer, and must be detrimental to the health of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood.

BROOMLEY.—The sewage from Broomley and the Painshawfield Estate is dealt with by two schemes, one running from Branch End, practically following the main road to the works at Merryshields; the other starting from New Ridley and collecting branches from various roads on the estate, following a route through Crab Tree Road and Batt House Road, the latter including Ridley Mill and the Stocksfield Station area, and running eastwards, parallel to the railway, to separate works on the same site as the former scheme. The treatment works in the second and larger area are overworked, and, in addition to the normal sewage, there is evidence of a certain amount of water gaining access to the sewer. The engineer responsible for this scheme has the matter under his personal observation. The effluent from both sets of works is, on the whole, satisfactory, but the time is not far off when, owing to building operations in the district, some further steps will have to be taken,

either to enlarge the smaller works, or, by some engineering feat, switch over part of the sewage to the larger and less used works.

BARRASFORD.—The sewage here is collected into works by the side of the North Tyne at Barrasford Mill. The effluent is good.

GUNNERTON.—The sewage from this village is treated in works situated on Gunnerton Burn, close to the Demesne grounds, and discharges a clear effluent into the burn.

CORBRIDGE.—No alterations have been made with regard to the treatment of sewage in this area since the period of the last Survey Report.

Two outlets are situated to the west of the bridge and one east of the bridge, all on the north side of the river. One of these, that situated at the Green, has been further extended to the river, so as to prevent the collection of a pool of sewage during fine weather flow. During the last year, also, the stone conduit in Middle Street and through the Stanners has been obliterated and relaid by sanitary pipes. This improvement has been carried out as the result of repeated representations and many adverse reports during past years, and is bound to be a great improvement, as the old stone drain was infested with rats, which, in my opinion, have been responsible for several outbreaks of Enteric Fever in this village during past years.

On the south side of the river, the houses on the Station Road drain into a water course near the Station. Beside the Gas Works there is a small sewage works, which treats the sewage from the houses on the south, and, with a little more attention, these works can give a good effluent. The Council have been advised on more than one occasion to appoint a Sewer Attendant to look after these works, and there is now some prospect of this being done.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—The main sewer discharges into sewage works on the north side of the village. From these works, a good effluent is obtained. Further down the river, in the neighbourhood of the Gas Works, there is another sewer, from which sewage is discharged untreated. On the south side, there is one main sewer, which discharges untreated sewage into the river, in the neighbourhood of Temple Houses. In normal times no nuisance exists in the river or on its banks, but, during the Summer, there have been occasions on which a pool of sewage has collected at the outlet of the south side sewer. Sooner or later, this sewage will have to be treated, and, whilst one cannot say at present that it is injurious to health, the fact that this work must be provided for, must not be lost sight of.

HEDLEY.—The sewage from this village is treated at works to the north-east. Since the last report, these works have been thoroughly overhauled, and now discharge a good effluent into the water course.

HORSLEY.—The sewage here is treated in a septic tank and discharged on to the land. This gives a satisfactory result, but requires a good deal of attention to keep the irrigation channels in good order.

HUMSHAUGH.—The sewage from Humshaugh is piped through a field to the south-east of the village, and discharges untreated sewage into the North Tyne.

NEWBROUGH.—The main sewer outlet is in a field south of the village, and discharges untreated sewage into a tributary of the South Tyne. In the neighbourhood of Crossgate Cottages, there is also another outlet, which discharges untreated sewage into a roadside ditch, eventually finding its way to the South Tyne. It would be a great improvement if this pipe could be continued, in order to carry this sewage further on its way, and so give less contamination to this ditch during dry weather.

FOURSTONES.—This village is sewered by an old system of stone sewers, which is eventually discharged untreated into the South Tyne.

I have long recommended that Newbrough and Fourstones, although two separate parishes, might economically be combined to run their sewage to a central point for treatment, and I would again offer this suggestion for what it is worth.

NEWTON.—The main sewer outlet for this village discharges untreated into a water course, which has to travel several miles before reaching the River Tyne. No nuisance exists here.

OVINGHAM.—As this village stands in a miniature water shed of its own, it has, of necessity, two sets of sewers, leading, respectively, to the East and West Works. These works discharge a fairly clear effluent, but, in the East Works, there is no provision for removing the sludge from the tank, and I recommend that this should be provided.

OVINGTON.—The sewage from this village is discharged untreated at two points into water courses, which have to travel some distance to reach the main river. In this case, one must say that, at times, where the main water course joins the Tyne, pollution does take place, and the day is not far distant when Ovington will have to provide treatment for this sewage.

SANDHOE.—This village is sewered along with Oakwood, and the sewage is conducted to the sewage works on the river bank on Anick Grange Farm. These works have always given trouble, and, since the last report, steps have been taken to overcome this, but these are not yet completed, and, at present, the tank is discharging continuously on the filter beds, the only alternative being to switch off the tank effluent direct into the river. The Engineer has had this matter in hand for some time, and it would seem that some special syphon arrangement is being carried out here to complete the work.

SIMONBURN.—Two outlets discharge untreated into the Simon Burn, a tributary of the North Tyne. As this is not a water carriage system, very little nuisance is the rule here.

SLALEY.—No change has been made in the sewering of this village since the period of the last Survey Report. The eastern part of this village is sewered and is discharged untreated into an open runner not far south of the village. The remaining houses each have their own private drain discharging, of necessity. into fields on the north and south of the roadway, respectively. Since the last Survey Report, this village has obtained a piped water supply, and the inhabitants are not now depending upon the local wells, which were being polluted from these several drains, thus the urgency for sewering this village has now been removed, and, as no nuisance can be said to exist —apart from noxious smells at the outlet of main sewer—one does not feel justified in pushing for a sewerage scheme here ; in fact, I am not sure if the borrowing powers of the Parish would permit of this at present.

WALL.—The sewage from this village is treated in works near the River North Tyne. These works give a satisfactory effluent.

WARDEN.—The sewer outlet for this village is in a field to the south-east, and discharges untreated sewage into the Tyne. No nuisance can be said to exist here.

WYLAM.—There are three outlets on the west side of the river, one below and two above the bridge. On the south side of the river there are two, one below the bridge and one on the river bank, near Hagg Bank. All of these discharge untreated sewage into the River Tyne, but, at present, no nuisance can be said to exist. At the time of the last Survey Report, the outlet at Hagg Bank discharged into a stagnant pool, walled off from the river current by a large, gravel bed. Since then, however, the course of the river has altered, and the gravel bed has dis-

appeared, and no nuisance exists now at this point. During this last year, two of the other outlets have been extended further into the river, and now discharge the sewage right into the main current.

WHITTONSTALL.—The sewage system here consists of a piped system leading into a plantation, well removed to the north of the village. There is no nuisance, and the effluent has ample land irrigation before reaching the water course.

I have endeavoured, as far as possible, with regard to drainage and sewerage, up to this point, to give a survey of those areas where any system exists for the disposal of sewage. It will be easily understood, however, that in such a scattered rural area as this, many hamlets and isolated premises must, of necessity, deal individually with their sewage, and, in most instances, these are dealt with by means of cesspools; in others, by discharging on to the land; and, in some cases, direct into water courses. Where the last is found, steps are taken by your officials to have cesspools installed.

I have no doubt, readers of this report will have observed that, in many cases, where there are piped systems, I have had to report that these discharge untreated sewage into the river or water course. This is, officially, an offence under the Rivers Pollution Act, but I have not felt justified in recommending you to deal with these unless their existed some reason for so doing, and I have confined myself during the last year, as in the past, to recommending that measures be taken to remedy cases where drains in the village were defective, or, for some reason, the health of the inhabitants was in danger. It must be borne in mind, however, that, as the law stands at present with regard to river pollution, sooner or later, these individual cases will have to be dealt with, and this necessity may arise at any time, and, when the occasion does arise, you will have no option but carry out the requirements of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

As is usual in most Rural Districts, the Closet Accommodation is on the conservancy system, represented chiefly by the old-fashioned privy-ashpit. These are kept reasonably clean, and, in the presence of sufficient ashes, should cause no nuisance, but, owing to lack of attention, it is found that nuisances occur, particularly where the ashpit is too large to ensure frequent emptying, and, also, owing to the presence of vegetable and other refuse, which ought to be burned. The following table gives the approximate number of each type of

convenience, as compared with 1919, which was the last year for a Survey Report :—

Type	1919	1925	Converted during Year
Privies	4278	4337	To W.C.'s, 19
Pail Closets ...	662	664	do. 8
W.C.'s	1060	1140	nil

SCAVENGING.

In a Rural District such as this, the responsibility for the removal of household refuse rests, of necessity, with the occupier, as, from the nature of the area, it is impossible that this could be carried out under any official scheme. Whilst this arrangement is inevitable in remote districts, the more densely populated areas, such as Allendale, Haydon Bridge, Corbridge, and Wylam, might well have official scavenging, with great advantage to the public. Accumulation of household refuse in the neighbourhood of houses is a commoner cause of bad health than is commonly believed. Where garbage is left lying about, rats are apt to congregate, and, further, these act as centres for the breeding of flies, which is one of the most common causes of Diarrhœa and Enteritis, particularly among young children. Were it possible, I should like to see ashpits abolished and sanitary bins brought into common use, as these latter would, of necessity, be emptied more often, but this could only be the case in the presence of an organised scheme of scavenging. The chief complaint with regard to ashpits, is that these are made too large, with the result that they are not emptied frequently enough to prevent decomposition and fermentation of the contents, resulting in obnoxious smells and the other complaints previously mentioned.

As I have said before, the sanitary state of the district is judged more by the efficiency of its scavenging than by anything else, and, on these grounds, there is room for vast improvement throughout the district. I would again urge that this matter should receive sympathetic consideration, and I feel confident that the results would justify the cost of carrying this out.

The only instance of systematic scavenging in this district is in the Branch End area of Stocksfield, where this is done by contract, with very satisfactory results. In Ovingham, Allendale, Haydon Bridge, and Humshaugh, permission has been obtained to tip refuse on definite sites, but the responsibility for

the removal thereto is left to the discretion of each individual occupier, which is again the weak link of the system, as, perhaps naturally, the ashpits are not emptied until there is no more room to contain more. At Ovington, endeavours have been made in the past to acquire a tip, but, so far, without success. This matter has been recommended to the Parochial Committee for their attention.

At Riding and Broomhaugh, a tip is urgently required for household refuse, as, at present, a large amount of this has been deposited along the side of and, even in, the Riding Burn.

Throughout the rest of the district, no official provision has been made for the removal or deposit of refuse, but, upon the whole, any defects are usually remedied upon the service of an Informal Notice.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tables, asked for by the Ministry, give the full particulars of the work done throughout the area during the year, and are, in a large measure, self explanatory :—

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, Year ending Dec. 31st, 1925.

[Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922, Art. 19 (12).]

Name of District,
North District of the Hexham Rural.

Population, 11,967

Name of Inspector,
M. WAUGH.

	Housing						Water Supply		Drainage			Sanitary Conven'ces															
	Structural defects	Dampness	Unfit for human habitation	Defective spouting	Overcrowding	Nuisances	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	Foul	Untrapped, or defective	Insufficient	Structural defects	Insufficient	Foul	Dairies and cowsheds	Slaughter houses	Tents, Vans, etc.	Offensive trades	Workshops & Work-places	Keeping of animals	Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	Ashpits improperly used	Offensive accumulations	Smoke nuisances	Petrol stores & carbide	TOTALS
No. of Inspections during year	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	2537	...	...	...	...	...	...	170	268	150	...	217	...	205	...	...	70	156	3773
No of defects or contraventions of byelaws ...	5	9	2	19	2	29	...	2	31	7	9	13	2	37	11	17	31	...	13	...	13	...	...	1	1	254
No. outstanding from previous year	2	3	...	5	1	...	2	...	9	3	7	4	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	65
Total	7	12	2	24	3	29	2	2	40	10	16	17	2	37	11	17	59	...	13	...	13	...	...	2	1	319
No. remedied after letter or interview	5	7	...	21	...	29	2	2	40	10	9	13	2	...	7	9	3	...	11	...	10	...	...	...	1	181
No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	4	7	56	...	2	...	3	...	...	1	...	87
Defects remedied thereafter	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	4	7	3	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	31
No. of statutory notices served	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defects remedied thereafter	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
In progress or being dealt with	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Legal proceedings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	Northern District of the Hexham Rural. Inspector—M. WAUGH.	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished	17	...	...	17
	,, repaired	5	...	...	5
	Privy ashpits abolished ...	17	...	...	17
	,, ,, roofed or repaired	4	...	...	4
	Pail-closets abolished ...	8	...	...	8
	Water closets provided ...	17	...	...	17
	,, ,, repaired ...	5	...	...	5
	Sanitary bins provided ...	7	...	...	7
	,, ,, renewed ...	...	...	...	...
Drainage	New drains constructed ...	18	...	...	18
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	36	...	...	36
	Additional gullies provided ...	17	...	...	17
	Old gullies replaced... ...	6	...	...	6
	Scullery sinks provided ...	3	...	...	3
	,, waste pipes repaired ...	...	...	...	...
	,, ,, trapped ...	3	...	...	3
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	3	...	...	3
Water supply	Sources closed or discontinued, nil.	No. of houses affected, nil.			
	New service provided ... 2	,, ,,			2

RIVERS POLLUTION :—Nil.

UNSOUND MEAT.		Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef (home-killed)	stones...	...	...	...
,, (Imported)	,, ...	...	...	...
Mutton (home-killed)	,, ...	...	...	...
,, (Imported)	,, ...	...	...	...
Pork	,, ...	...	...	...

Other Foods : Nil.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS—NIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, Year ending Dec. 31st, 1925.

[Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922, Art. 19 (12).]

Name of District,
South District of the Hexham Rural.
Population, 10,273
Name of Inspector,
JOHN HINDMARSH.

	Housing						Water Supply		Drainage			Sanitary Conven'ces														
	Structural defects	Dampness	Unfit for human habitation	Defective spouting	Overcrowding	Nuisances	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	Foul	Untrapped, or defective	Insufficient	Structural defects	Insufficient	Foul	Dairies and cowsheds	Slaughter houses	Tents, Vans, etc.	Offensive trades	Workshops & Work-places	Keeping of animals	Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	Ashpits improperly used	Offensive accumulat-ions	Smoke nuisances	Petrol stores & carbide	TOTALS
No. of Inspections during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3873	...	...	...	...	...	...	575	348	...	...	217	4					123	5140
No of defects or contra-ventions of byelaws ...	10	15	...	17	...	...	...	...	13	9	4	23	2	93	21	4	2	...	9	2	23	2	2	...	...	251
No. outstanding from previous year	33	7	...	20	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	135	2	27	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	233
Total	43	22	...	37	...	...	...	...	14	12	6	158	4	120	21	4	2	...	9	3	23	2	3	...	...	1102
No. remedied after letter or interview	27	19	...	19	...	...	...	...	14	10	6	73	4	112	19	4	2	...	6	...	17	2	3	...	...	337
No. of informal notices served	10	15	...	17	...	...	...	...	10	9	4	13	2	35	17	4	2	...	4	3	19	2	3	...	...	169
Defects remedied thereafter	7	15	...	17	...	...	...	...	10	9	2	13	2	35	17	4	2	...	4	3	17	2	3	...	...	162
No. of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	8
Defects remedied thereafter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	8
In progress or being dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Legal proceedings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	Southern District of the Hexham Rural. Inspector—J. HINDMARSH.	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished	2	...	...	2
	,, repaired	16	5	...	21
	Privy ashpits abolished ...	...	...	...	...
	,, ,, roofed or repaired	47	...	...	47
	Pail-closets abolished ...	...	...	...	...
	Water closets provided ...	2	...	...	2
	,, ,, repaired ...	...	...	...	...
	Sanitary bins provided ...	3	1	...	4
	,, ,, renewed ...	...	...	...	...
Drainage	New drains constructed ...	4	...	...	4
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	1	3	...	4
	Additional gullies provided ...	...	...	...	...
	Old gullies replaced... ...	1	...	...	1
	Scullery sinks provided ...	3	...	...	3
	,, waste pipes repaired ...	2	1	...	3
	,, ,, trapped ...	2	...	...	2
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...
Water supply	Sources closed or discontinued, nil.	No. of houses affected, nil.			
	New service provided ... nil.	,, ,, nil.			

RIVERS POLLUTION :—No action taken
Houses Disinfected, 28
Schools ,, 2

UNSOUND MEAT.	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef (home-killed) stones...	98	...	...
,, (Imported) ,, ...	...	...	...
Mutton (home-killed) ,, ...	...	...	...
,, (Imported) ,, ...	...	...	...
Pork ... ... ,, ...	14	...	...
Other Foods : Nil.			

REMARKS :—No Cow beef or Ewe mutton retailed in this district, hence the small percentage of unfit or unsound.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS—NIL.

This is carried out by the Police.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In a Rural district such as this, there is very little complaint with regard to nuisances from the emission of black smoke. In one instance, however, that of the Electrical Power Station, there have been several complaints, due to the emission of black smoke. It is pleasant to record, however, that, during the year, one of the two furnaces has been equipped with a mechanical stoking device and smoke combustion chamber, with excellent results. It is expected, in the near future, that the remaining furnace will also be similarly equipped.

It has been observed on several occasions, that there is a large increase in the number of steam-driven vehicles on the roads, which, very frequently, emit clouds of black smoke on the highway, and this is a nuisance which is steadily increasing, and, whilst it may be too transitory to create a sanitary nuisance, it certainly does cause danger to other users of the highway, and this matter will have to be taken up, sooner or later, by the appropriate authority—in this case, the police.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS THAT CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.

Apart from Slaughter-houses and Cowsheds, which are dealt with later, under the Inspection and Supervision of Food, there are none of these in the district. No underground sleeping rooms, as defined by the Housing Act, 1925, Section 18 (1), exist in the district.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

No case of any such has occurred during the year under review.

SCHOOLS.

The following table gives the information asked for, with reference to Water Supply, Closet Accommodation, and Sanitary Condition :—

School.	Sanitary Conditions.	Water Supply.	Sanitary Conveniences.
Acomb	Satisfactory ...	Pnblic supply ...	Privies
Allendale Town	do. ...	do. ...	W.C.'s
Allenheads	do. ...	Piped from well ...	Earth closets
Allendale, St. Peter's ...	Damp, floor rotting	Private piped ...	Privies
do. Keenley ...	Satisfactory ...	Well	do.
do. Sinderhope ...	do. ...	Trough in yard ...	Earth closets
do. Catton	do. ...	Public supply ...	Privies
do. Carshields ...	do. ...	Trough in yard ...	do.
do. Ninebanks ...	do. ...	Spring piped ...	do.
Bingfield	do. ...	Well on roadside...	do.
Blanchland	do. ...	Village supply ...	do.
Broomhaugh	do. ...	Public supply ...	do.
Broomley C.	do. ...	Village supply ...	W.C.'s
Chollerton Parochial ...	do. ...	Public supply ...	Pail closets
Colwell R.C.	do. ...	Village supply ...	do.
Corbridge (Infants) ...	do. ...	Public supply ...	W.C.'s
Corbridge C.	do. ...	do. ...	Trough closets
Shaftoe Trust, Haydon Bridge	do. ...	do. ...	W.C.'s
Deanraw	do. ...	Well	Privies
Grindon C.E.	do. ...	Spring	do.
Halton Shields	do. ...	Well on roadside...	do.
Healey	do. ...	Well in garden ...	do.
Bagraw	do. ...	Well in field ...	do.
Hardhaugh	do. ...	From School House	Trough closets
Hedley	do. ...	Village supply ...	Earth closets
Horsley	do, ...	do. ...	Privies
Humshaugh	do. ...	do. ...	Trough closets
Lilswood	do. ...	Well on road ...	Privies
Ordley C.	do. ...	Well	do.
Whitley Chapel	do. ...	Piped supply ...	Pail closets
Newbrough, Boys	do. ...	Well	Privies
Newbrough, Girls	do. ...	Tank in schoolyard	do.
Newton	do. ...	Tap in yard ...	do.
Ovingham C.E.	do. ...	Village supply ...	do.
Ovington	do. ...	do. ...	do.
Sandhoe, Beaufront ...	do. ...	Taps in yard ...	do.
St. John's, Shotley ...	do. ...	Public supply ...	do.
Simonburn	do. ...	Tap on roadside ...	do.
Slaley	do. ...	Public supply ...	Pail closets
Wall C.E.	do. ...	Village supply ...	Privies
Whitttington, Great ...	do. ...	Pipe in yard ...	do.
Whittonstall	do. ...	Village supply ...	do.
Wylam	do. ...	Public supply ...	W.C.'s

The action taken in relation to the health of the scholars and the prevention and spread of Infectious Disease is detailed later, under heading F., Prevention of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

D. HOUSING.

The area of the Rural District is 196,809 acres, made up of 58 parishes.

The Ministry of Health ask for separate particulars for each parish, under the various headings. This I have endeavoured to do, but I very much question if the considerable amount of juggling with figures thus entailed, is worth the information contained therein, or is likely to lead to any improvement in the conditions of housing in each parish. Whilst a parish is a useful definition of an area for rating or ecclesiastical purposes, I cannot see wherein it is useful for the definition of a housing area, as is fully recognised by the Housing Committee whilst working on the Addison Housing Scheme. For example, if you take almost any parish in this district, you will find that one part of it is densely enough populated to justify it being treated as an Urban area, whilst the remainder is essentially sparse and rural. My meaning is well borne out in such examples as Wylam, Broomley, Corbridge, Haydon, and Allendale parishes.

As I have explained previously, to keep elaborate tables as are necessary to give these details asked for, entails an amount of clerical work which cannot be undertaken by the present staff, nor, do I consider it worth while increasing the staff to furnish such particulars. The work of your officials has been concentrated on getting work done to the houses themselves and keeping as simple a record as is compatible with that object, and this, I think, I can claim is a correct view, and it is for you to judge to what degree of efficiency this has been done.

The tables given herewith can only be regarded as estimates, but an endeavour has been made to work these out as accurately as possible, and will, I think, be, in a large measure, self explanatory.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Hexham Rural (Northern) District.

NORTHERN DISTRICT	Total for District	For Parishes see other Table.
Number of Inspections made	2076	
,, of Dwellings found to be unfit ..	3	
Complaints that houses were unfit—		
(a) By Householders	..	
(b) By Parish Councils	..	
Closing Orders—No. of representations to L.A...	1	
No. of Orders made	..	
No determined after repair ..	1	
Number of houses Voluntarily closed ..	..	
,, ,, Demolished	..	
Houses made fit for habitation—		
(a) After informal notice	..	
(b) ,, Service of notice under Sec. 28, 1919	..	
(c) ,, Closing orders had been made ..	1	
(d) By Local Authority in default of owner..	..	
No demolished—Voluntarily by owners ..	1	
General character of defects found †		
Housing Act, 1890—		
(a) No. of representations of obstructive buildings	..	
(b) No. of such buildings demolished ..	..	
(c) Representations as to unhealthy areas ..	..	

† Defective and want of Spouting, defective Roofs, soil abutting against walls, Drainage required,

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Hexham Rural (Southern) District.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Total for District	PARISHES																						
		Allendale	Broomhaugh	Broomley	Corbridge (S)	Dilston	Dukes Hagg	Espershields	Haydon (S)	Healey	Hedley	Hexham High Quarter	Hexham Low Quarter	Hexham Middle Quarter	Hexham West Quarter	High Fotherley	Newlands	Slaley	Riding	Shotley High Quarter	Shotley Low Quarter	West Allen	Whittonstall	Wylam (S)
Number of Inspections made	1527	321	47	203	31	38	1	24	317	17	47	21	41	27	31	9	19	91	41	23	83	57	27	31
,, of Dwellings found to be unfit ..	..	1		2					3								1				1			8
Complaints that houses were unfit—																								
(a) By Householders	..																							
(b) By Parish Councils	..																							
Closing Orders--(a) No. of representations to L.A.	..																							
(b) ,, Orders made ..	..																							
Number of houses Voluntarily closed ..	..																							
,, ,, Demolished	..																							
Houses made fit for habitation—																								
(a) After informal notice	..																							
(b) ,, Service of notice under Sec. 28, 1919																								
(c) ,, Closing orders had been made ..	..																							
(d) By Local Authority in default of owner..	..																							
General character of defects found †																								
Housing Act, 1890—																								
(a) No. of representations of obstructive buildings	..																							
(b) No. of such buildings demolished ..	..																							
(c) Representations as to unhealthy areas ..	..																							

† Defective Roofs and Spouting, no Dampcourse, Pointing required.

I. General Housing Conditions in the Area.

(1). General housing conditions.

Houses of all classes are represented in the Rural District of Hexham. Certain areas are almost entirely residential, whilst others are industrial, by that, I mean what may be classed as houses for the working classes. Under this heading, one includes Mining and Agricultural residences as being the greatest in number.

(2). (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses.

Along the main thoroughfares, by road or railway, there is a shortage of houses, but, in the more inaccessable parts, particularly in the remote Allendale district, a few empty houses are still to be found.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.

Since work was suspended under the Addison Scheme, the only part taken by this Council is by issuing subsidies to the builders of houses which come within subsidy regulations. Nine such houses have been built during the past year.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review, or anticipated in the future.

Apart from general fluctuation of the population throughout the district, no important change has taken place, or is anticipated.

II. Overcrowding.

(1). Extent.

According to the 1921 census return, there are 90 dwellings occupied by two families. Of these, 7 houses were less than 3 rooms, 49 between 3 and 5 rooms, 21 up to 8 rooms, and 13 with 9 or more rooms. Seven dwellings contained three or more families, 1 of these under 3 rooms, and 6 between 6 and 8 rooms.

(2). Causes.

The chief cause of overcrowding is, obviously, shortage of houses, and also the fact that, owing to trade depression, recently married couples, owing to lack of means, elect to lodge with the parents of either party, rather than set up on their own. In addition to these causes, in certain parts of the district, houses are reserved by their owners to let furnished to summer visitors. This practise is commonest in the Allendale and Corbridge areas, although, in a lesser degree, it is

more or less universal throughout the district. It is estimated that about 50 houses are thus thrown out of count as dwelling-houses for inhabitants in the district. It must also be remembered that building has not been carried out in the manner that it used to be before the War, although that average (18·8 per year) has been closely approached during 1925, half of this number having been built with the assistance of subsidy, some of which would not have been built if subsidy had not been available.

(3). Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding.

Obviously, the only practical solution is to have more houses available, either by State-aided or private schemes. It would seem, at present, the former does not commend itself to you, and the private builder, owing to the high cost of material, is not enthusiastic. It would, therefore, appear that the provision of new houses in these days is at a deadlock, but, if it is any comfort, it would seem to be little better elsewhere. In a compact Urban area, a municipal Housing Scheme is a feasible proposition, but to provide houses in a scattered Rural area, is evidently not practicable, and certainly cannot be made an economic proposition. The question of ways and means does not come within the scope of a Sanitary Report, but the fact does remain, however, that, at least, 150 houses are required in your district to overcome the present shortage.

(4). Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925 and action taken.

No legal action was taken during the year for cases of overcrowding, as, until houses are available, you have decided, I think, wisely, to let matters rest until such time as alternative accommodation is available. Two informal notices were served for this nuisance during the year. In one case, this was followed by a Statutory Notice, as a result of which the overcrowding was remedied. In the other case, as there was no means of remedying this, no further action was taken.

III. Fitness of Houses.

(1). (a) General standard of housing in the area.

The general standard is good, considering the prevailing type of country house throughout the district.

(b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.

The totally unfit houses are few, but, taking this heading in its wider sense, the general character of defects are dampness of walls, defective walls and roofs, defective lighting and ventilation, defective spouting, and, in some instances, defective drainage and water supply. One of the chief causes of dampness, is the absence of damp proof courses in the old-fashioned type of house.

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.

In most instances, the chief cause of defect is through default of owners, and only in a few instances has it been found that the tenants' carelessness contributed to the cause of this.

(2). General action taken as regards unfit houses.

(a) The Public Health Acts.

The particulars under this heading will be found on the appended table. The information is given by parishes.

(b) The Housing Acts.

Same as above paragraph.

(3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness, special measures taken, and any suggestion in the matter.

The chief difficulty found in having unfitness remedied under the existing Acts as invariably put to one, is the lack of means. This does not only apply to the small owner, but also to the large landed proprietor. The Rent Restriction Act is largely blamed by the small owner, whilst heavy taxation is the reason given by the larger. Whether these arguments be true or imaginary, the fact remains that a very satisfactory number of repairs has been carried out to the property throughout the district, and, by tactful management, it is surprising what can be done. I think, in this respect, your district holds its own with any other.

(4). Conditions so far as they effect Housing, as regards Water Supply, Closet Accommodation, and Refuse Disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters.

Information under this heading is given in detail by parishes on the appended table.

	TOTALS	Acomb	Aydon	Aydon Castle	Bearle	Bingfield	Blackcarts and Ryehill	Bywell	Chollerton	Clarewood	Cocklaw	Corbridge N.	Fallowfield	Hallington	Halton	Haughton	Haydon N.	Horsley	Humshaugh	Nafferton	Newbrough	Newton	Newton Hall	Ovingham	Ovington	Portgate	Sandhoe	Simonburn	Spittle	Stelling	Styford	Thornbrough	Wall	Warden
Number of New Houses erected during the year :—																																		
(a) Total	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Subsidised	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
1. Unfit Dwelling-houses :—																																		
Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1672	170	15	1	5	7	1	19	129	11	10	235	4	11	6	10	53	73	101	6	113	23	20	87	101	3	21	61	2	7	10	11	71	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	2076	190	19	4	11	13	2	30	220	15	30	427	5	13	6	15	60	72	119	6	162	22	30	93	104	15	15	63	2	10	15	13	42	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2	2																																
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	113	11	...	...	4	...	...	...	7	...	...	11	...	...	2	...	7	...	5	...	12	...	...	6	9	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	11	
2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :—																																		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	84	9	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	...	...	9	...	...	1	...	5	...	3	...	10	...	...	4	7	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	9	
3. Action under Statutory Powers :—																																		
A—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing, etc., Act, 1925 :—																																		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	27	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	4	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—																																		
(a) By owners	nil																																	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil																																	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close...	nil																																	
B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—																																		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	72	9	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	6	...	10	...	...	1	3	5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	7	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after Formal Notice :—																																		
(a) By owners	52	7	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	4	...	5	...	...	1	2	3	5	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	5	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	nil																																	
C—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—																																		
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil																																	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	nil																																	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil																																	
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil																																	

IV. Unhealthy Areas.

No unhealthy areas exist in the Rural District of Hexham.

V. Byelaws Relating to Houses, to Houses Let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc.

(1) As to working of existing Byelaws.

These have been found to work quite satisfactorily. The chief difficulty comes under that of Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., and with special relation to drainage and water supply. Owing to shortage of houses in this district and elsewhere, a large number of wooden "bungalows" have been erected in the Ovingham and Wylam areas. The majority of these have been built without submission of plans, and occupied without the issue of a Habitation Certificate. These are being gradually brought into line, and, so long as sanitary defects are remedied and the places kept in a habitable condition, it has been decided, under existing circumstances, to take no drastic action with regard to the informality of these dwellings.

(2). As to need for new Byelews or revision of existing Byelaws.

No new Byelaws would seem necessary, and I cannot recommend any necessary revision of those already in force.

VI. General and Miscellaneous.

It would seem that most of this has been covered under other headings, except that one might point out that your Inspectors are constantly advising occupiers to burn all refuse which is of a combustible nature, and thus reduce the amount of refuse disposal, and also renders the same less objectionable and less liable to fermentation and the breeding of flies and other vermin.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk produced in this area would seem to be of good quality. There are on the register 308 producers. The premises are inspected as often as circumstances allow, but, owing to the scattered nature of these, inspections cannot be carried out as often as one would like, owing to transport difficulty. On the whole, these premises are kept in a satisfactory condition, and no legal action has been found necessary. During the year, 745 inspections have been carried out, and 32 contraventions of Byelaws or defects have been found. Twenty-six of these were remedied after letter or

interview. Twenty-one informal notices were served, and, in each case, the defects were remedied thereafter.

(i.) Action taken as to Tuberculous Milk and Tuberculous Cattle.

In each case, when Tuberculous Milk has been reported to have been delivered in Newcastle or elsewhere out of the district, the farmer has been visited, and, if action has not already been taken, the supply of milk has been stopped until the Veterinary's certificate has been received certifying the herd clear. Where any animal has been found suspected of Tuberculosis, the milk supply from that cow has been stopped until the animal had been examined by a Veterinary Surgeon and dealt with appropriately.

(ii.) Numbers of licenses granted for the sale of milk under special designations and types of apparatus for the pasteurisation of milk.

Only one license is in force in the Rural District for the production and bottling of Grade A. Milk. No apparatus is licensed for the pasteurisation of milk.

(iii.) Refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licenses for graded milk.

No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licenses have been necessary throughout the district.

(iv.) The summarized results of the bacteriological examinations of samples of graded and other milk.

This is not carried out in the Rural District by your officials, but is dealt with under the Food and Drugs Act, by the County Council.

(b) Meat.

(i.) Meat inspection, marking of meat, disease in, and arrangements for disposal of, condemned meat.

In a scattered Rural area containing twenty-seven slaughter-houses, catering, to a large extent, for butchers' vans travelling in the district, it is pretty obvious that slaughtering must, of necessity, take place at irregular hours, as it is only on the return of the butcher's van that the needs for the next round are known. Even when notice is sent, which is in most instances done, it is impossible for an Inspector to be present at the slaughtering, or even within the statutory three hours after slaughter.

Meat is inspected as and when opportunity offers, and visits to slaughter-houses are made as often as possible, to

coincide with the slaughter, or immediately after. As a result of these inspections, 98 stones of home-killed beef was examined and found unfit for human consumption, and was surrendered by the butcher without the necessity of any further action. Meat thus condemned is either buried or sent to the kennels.

The marking of meat under the Public Health Regulations, 1924, is not carried out in this district. Cow beef and ewe mutton is not sold in the district, but is sent to Newcastle and Gateshead, thus accounting, in a large measure, for the small quantity of Tuberculous Meat found in this district upon inspection.

(ii.) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles.

A certain number of butchers in the district, in the more populous centres, have given notice, under these regulations, of fixed days and hours for slaughtering. In other cases, as indicated above, slaughtering is carried out as and when necessary, and inspected as opportunity offers. When these regulations came first into force, a conference was held with the Butchers' Association in Hexham, when the working of these regulations was discussed between the butchers and the Sanitary Authority, and, as reported to you during the year, an arrangement was come to, that, should a butcher find anything the least suspicious, he should acquaint the Sanitary Authority with the fact. This has, I believe, been conscientiously carried out, and many instances have been recorded in which this has been done, and the meat, on inspection, has been passed as fit for human consumption, and I do not believe any unsound meat has been exposed to the public for sale.

(iii.) The Management of Public Slaughter-houses.

No public slaughter-houses exist in the Rural District of Hexham, although I am still of opinion that such would be an advantage in such areas as Corbridge, Haydon Bridge, and Allendale.

The following table gives the number of private slaughter-houses in the district :—

	1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered ...	25	22	23
Licensed ...	2	2	2

(c) Other Foods.

The existing powers have been found quite adequate to deal with the sanitary conditions of bake-houses and other premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale. No instance has been found in which any food, other than meat, has been found unsound, although the premises are inspected regularly.

(d) Food Poisoning in the Area.

No cases of Food Poisoning have occurred in this area during the period under report.

(e) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

As the Local Authority for the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts is the County Council, no action is reported under this heading.

(f) Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

The same remarks as under heading " e " above, applies in this district.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of the chief notifiable infectious diseases and those specially asked for, during the period since 1920, are given on the following table :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Enteric	1	...	2	2	...
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever ...	101	29	26	61	36
Diphtheria ...	20	5	16	11	27
Pneumonias ...	14	40	16	22	17
Malaria (Rec.) ...	3	...	1	...	...
Trench Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentry ...	...	1	...	...	...
Enceph. Lethargica	...	...	...	2	1
*Chickenpox ...	...	...	...	...	*38

* Only notifiable during part of the year.

Incidence Rate of Zymotic Diseases

	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	PuerperalFever	Erysipelas
England and Wales ...	0·14	2·36	1·23	0·07	0·06	0·39
Hexham Rural District	0·13	2·79	1·22	0·00	0·00	0·31

It will be observed that the largest numbers are those of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. With regard to Scarlet Fever, a large number of primary cases have been directly traced to contact with either a case outside our area or from a known case inside. Every effort is made in all cases of notifiable infectious disease to trace the origin and to prevent further spread. An enquiry is conducted immediately upon receipt of the notification, in the form set out at the end of this report. A notice, Form A., is sent to the infected house, putting the same into quarantine until a period which is terminated by Form B. At the same time, a confidential note is sent to the school, Form C., which is followed by Form D., terminating the exclusion of patients and contacts. Similar notices, Forms H. and I., are sent to the Sunday School. Upon discharge of a patient from Hospital, Form G. is sent to the school, informing the schoolmaster when the patient may return to school.

Under the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, Form J. is sent to the infected house. Specimens of these forms will be found at the end of this report, to indicate the method of control over infectious disease generally.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are dealt with at the College of Medicine, Newcastle, by arrangements made by the County Council. During the year, 158 examinations have been made, of which 115 were for Diphtheria, with positive results in 28 cases; 38 were for Tuberculosis, with 5 positive results; and 5 for Enteric Fever, of which none were positive. During the year, no return or carrier cases have been found in the district.

As far as it is known, the Schick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, respectively, are not made use of by the practitioners in the district, nor has any official use been made of artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by your Medical Officer of Health, under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, but a considerable amount were, nevertheless, performed by him, the lymph having been obtained from the Public Vaccinators in the district, to whom the particulars were given. As, so far, you have been fortunate enough not to have an epidemic of Small-pox in the district, it has not been deemed necessary, up to the present, to lay in a stock of vaccine, entailing the necessity of this being replaced each week, but, should occasion arise, this can be carried out at any time. Vaccinations and re-vaccinations which have been done, as above, and by the Public Vaccinator, are given on the following tables, in detail, for each sub-district:—

Sub-district	Primary	Re-vaccs.
Allendale	44	98
Bywell	58	211
Chollerton	254	152
Hexham	47	262
Total for Whole District	403	723

Of non-notifiable acute infectious diseases, a certain number have occurred throughout the district, but in no instance have any of these amounted to an epidemic. Each month, by arrangement with the School Attendance Officers, a statement is obtained of these diseases as affecting school attendance in each school during that period, and, in many instances, information is obtained direct from the Head Teacher of the schools. I find the Education Anthorities in the district most willing to co-operate in the early detection and stamping out of infectious diseases, and I consider this a most valuable asset in carrying out prevention of disease throughout the district. As can easily be understood, a rural school is very liable to act as a focus of infection, and it is most important that your Sanitary Officers should be able to avail themselves of the information to be obtained at these centres, and, in many cases, by prompt action upon that information, a spread of disease can be, and has been, prevented.

During the year, five deaths have resulted from Influenza, but no epidemic of this disease has been found in this district.

None of the other special diseases mentioned, e.g., cancer, anthrax, and rabies, call for special attention, although the

number of deaths from cancer still remains high. I give, herewith, the number of deaths from this disease each year for the last 15 years, and it will be noticed that it shows a general upward tendency. Although not relavent to this part of the report, I give, for the same period, the number of deaths from Heart Disease, which also claims a large number of victims.

	Disease.	
Year.	Cancer.	Heart.
1911 ...	25 ...	48
1912 ...	18 ...	38
1913 ...	19 ...	40
1914 ...	19 ...	20
1915 ...	22 ...	55
1916 ...	20 ...	62
1917 ...	25 ...	38
1918 ...	19 ...	55
1919 ...	28 ...	49
1920 ...	12 ...	49
1921 ...	25 ...	39
1922 ...	31 ...	40
1923 ...	27 ...	42
1924 ...	31 ...	45
1925 ...	30 ...	44

From the above figures, the Death Rate during the year 1925, for cancer alone is 1·3 per thousand, and that for Heart 1·9.

Up to the present, there has been no occasion for cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings, but on every occasion where a notifiable infectious disease (except Chicken-pox) has occurred, the house, clothing, etc., has been disinfected by your Inspectors by Formaline spraying.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1925.

The analysis of the total cases notified and admitted to hospital under the different age groups, will be found on Table 2 at the end of this report, while the total deaths under similar age groups will be found on Table 3.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1925 are given on the following table :—

Age periods.	New Cases				* Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non Pulm.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 yr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	1
15-20	2	3	1	1	3	3	—	1
20-25	6	2	—	—	3	2	—	—
25-35	5	7	1	—	4	3	—	1
35-45	2	2	—	1	10	3	—	—
45-55	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
over 65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	18	17	2	5	23	11	1	3

* Included in these figures are the transferable deaths from the district.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

This section refers to removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and it must be proved to the satisfaction of a court of Summary Jurisdiction that:

(a) any person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis is in an infectious state, and

(b) that the lodging or accommodation provided for that person is such that proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection cannot be taken, or that such precautions are not being taken, and

(c) that serious risk of infection is thereby caused to other persons, and

(d) that a suitable hospital or institution exists for the reception and accommodation of that person.

As no such hospital exists for the district, apart from the Sanatorium at Wooley, and, as the County Tuberculosis Officer is in close touch with all cases of Tuberculosis in the County and is best able to judge the accommodation available for the class of case concerned, it has not been found necessary to recommend the District Council to take action under this section.

G. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

It has not been considered necessary to take any special action with regard to the incidence of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Measles, Whooping Cough, Epidemic Diarrhœa, Poliomyelitis, and other infectious diseases of parturient women, infants, and young children.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred during the year. The details are shown, as required, on the appended table :—

	Cases.						
	Notified	Treated		Vision unimpared	Vision impared	Total Blindness	Deaths
		At Home	In Hospital				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—

This concludes the report as asked for by the circular of the Ministry of Health, and covers, I think, all the ground pertaining to Sanitary matters in this district. While much work of a Sanitary nature has been effected throughout the year, much still remains to be done. The housing question still remains unsolved, and houses are required in various parts of the district. It would seem that in the village of Acomb particularly, additional houses are urgently required. Developments at the pit at this place calls for additional workmen, and by the absence of housing accommodation being provided by the owners of the colliery or other private enterprise, the onus under the Housing Acts rests upon the Sanitary Authority to provide houses for the people to live in. I would remind you that you have a site purchased at this place, and I am of opinion that the conditions here warrant you making out a special case to the Minsitry for the erection of Council houses on this site.

Social conditions are such, that in very many cases it is with difficulty that the people can make ends meet, and under these conditions one has to act warily and tactfully in asking for improvements and renovations.

I take this opportunty of thanking the members of the Council for their co-operation during the year, and I also tender my thanks to all fellow-officials for their assistance in carrying out the work during the past year.

Your obedient servant,
JOHN STEEDMAN.

TABLE No. 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett				of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate			Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1919..	21225	366	376	17·7	259	12·2	10	29	21	57·3	278	13·09
1920..	21475	481	486	22·6	251	11·6	10	33	31	64·4	273	12·6
1921..	21960	450	458	20·8	243	11·06	13	37	29	63·3	267	12·1
1922..	22080	388	397	17·8	270	12·1	13	40	43	108·3	297	13·3
1923..	22160	376	394	17·7	238	10·7	24	39	31	82·4	253	11·4
1924..	22200	343	373	16·8	248	11·1	25	35	25	67·0	258	11·6
1925..	22140*	345	356	16·0	254	11·4	36	34	13	36·5	252	11·3‡

* This Population is estimated for Birth and Death Rates by Registrar General.

‡ Corrected for difference in age and sex distribution.—10·.18

Area of District, 196,809 Acres.

From 1921 Census—

Total population at all ages.....24,450.
No. of Inhabited Houses ..... 5,242.
Average of persons per house ..... 4·6.

Table No. 2.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1925.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.									Total cases notified in each Sub-District.				No. of cases removed to Hospital from each sub-dist.			
	At all Ages	Under 1.	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwds	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10								
Smallpox	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	1
Chicken Pox..	38	..	2	5	31	..	..	..	..	..	17	21	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	8	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	3	..	3	2	3	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	27	..	..	2	18	6	..	1	..	2	14	5	6	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	36	..	..	13	15	5	3	..	..	4	19	11	2	2	14	5	2
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	30	..	..	..	..	13	12	3	2	5	9	11	5	2	6	6	3
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	7	..	1	..	1	3	2	..	..	..	3	2	2	..	..	1	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Ac. Encephalitis Lethargica	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	10	1	1	1	3	..	1	3	..	1	4	3	2	..	..	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	7	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	2	..	2	3	2	..	..	..	..
Dysentry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Notifiable Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals.. ..	169	3	4	21	70	31	23	10	7	12	72	59	26	4	21	13	6
														44			

Table No. 3.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1925.

Causes of Death.	Analysis of Nett deaths according to age.									
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	D'ths in Institute
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Measles	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Whooping-cough	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diphtheria and Croup	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Influenza	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	
Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Meningococcal Meningitis	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	
Respiratory Tuberculosis	14	..	..	..	..	5	8	1	..	20
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	..	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	30	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	18	1
Rheumatic Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Diabetes	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Cerebral Haem.	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	15	
Organic Heart Disease	44	..	..	..	..	..	4	9	31	
Arterio-sclerosis	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	
Bronchitis	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	1	..	1	..	..	3	2	3	
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Diarrhœa	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	
Alcoholism	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	
Acute and chronic Nephritis	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy & parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Congenital debility and malformation, **Premature Birth**	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Suicide	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	
Violence (excluding suicides)	8	1	..	1	..	4	1	1	..	
Senile decay	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	
Other defined diseases	38	1	..	1	1	1	4	11	19	1
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	
TOTALS	252	13	4	5	4	12	27	46	141	

Table No. 4.

Infant Mortality During 1925.

Nett Deaths from Stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Icterus Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inattention at Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Marasmus	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	3
Other causes	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All causes (Certified.	6	...	1	...	7	2	1	...	...	10
All causes (Uncertified.	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
GRAND TOTALS	7	...	1	...	8	2	1	...	...	11

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during 1925.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 total population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 births	
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales ...	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75
105 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000) ...	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74
London	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67
Hexham Rural Dist..	16·0	11·3	0·00	0·00	0·04	0·09	0·09	0·04	0·27	0·45	0·00	36

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	94	14	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	387	27	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	...	...	...
Total	481	41	...

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	No. of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:				
Want of cleanliness	33	33	...	...
Want of ventilation	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	8	8	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — insufficient	1	1	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — unsuitable, defective	1	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation — not separate for sexes	2	1	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other Offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule of the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).	...	...	...	...
Total	46	44	...	...

FORM A.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Notice putting Infected Place into Quarantine.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM.

.....*192*

To.....

.....

Owing to the presence of Infectious Disease in your Vicinity / House your premises are regarded as "infected." All persons residing therein must refrain from attending school, picture-house, church, sunday-school, shops, or any other place where there may be gatherings of people. No visitors are to be permitted inside the house, or persons resident therein to visit any other house, or handle any milk, food, or utensils intended for use or consumption outside the house.

Due notice will be given when these restrictions are removed. Until such time quarantine must be observed.

Attention is drawn to Sect. 126 of the Public Health Act, 1875, which imposes a penalty of £5 for exposure of an infected person or things, and the public are hereby warned that it is the intention of the Hexham Rural District Council to see that these Regulations are strictly adhered to.

.....

Medical Officer of Health.

FORM B.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM,

.....192

To Parents or Guardian of.....

.....

Public Health Act, 1875.—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

In the absence of any further cases of Infectious disease, you may consider all restrictions imposed by Form A, with reference to your house, removed from and including .....

Please note that quarantine must be observed till that date.

The patient (if of School age) may return to School on..... .....

Other children of school age, residing in the house, may return to school on.....

Note.—Before entering school, all children must see the Head Teacher and obtain permission to go to the classroom.

.....

Medical Officer of Health.

CONFIDENTIAL. **FORM C.**

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM.

.....*192*

To Head Teacher,

.....School.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1907, SEC. 57.

I beg to inform you that.....
of....., attending your school, is suffering from an infectious disease. Under the above Act, this child must not be re-admitted to school till permitted by me. The patient and other children from the house will be asked to report to you for permission to enter the classrooms. You will be notified (Form D.) when this may safely be done.

I further request that you will observe the instructions of the Board of Education with reference to exclusion of other children from this house, and report to me any suspicious cases of contacts.

.....
Medical Officer of Health.

COFIDENTIAL FORM D.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM,

.....192

To Head Teacher,

.....School.

With reference to previous note (Form C.) sent you with regard to ..... of ...., I have to inform you that the house referred to is now clear of infection, and this patient may safely attend school from .....

Other children from the house may attend from .....

.....
Medical Officer of Health.

FORM E.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM.

.....*192*

To Dr. .....

.....

I beg to inform you that .....

of ....., notified by you as suffering from

...., is being removed to the Council's Isolation

Hospital on.....

.....
Medical Officer of Health.

FORM F.

To the Medical Officer of Health,
Hexham Rural District Council,
Town Hall,
HEXHAM. (Date).....192

I hereby certify that the Patient .....

of....., is now recovered

from....., and that the house is now ready for disinfection

by the Sanitary Authority.

Signature of Medical Attendant.....

NOTE :—*The completion of this Certificate does not remove the restrictions imposed by Form A, and Isolation must be continued, and no child sent to school from the house, until a further Certificate (Form B) is received from the Medical Officer of Health, to whom this form, when completed, is to be sent at above address.*

FORM G.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall Buildings,
Beaumont Street,
HEXHAM.

..... of .....

having been discharged from the Isolation Hospital on .....

must not attend School, Sunday School, or any other public gathering till

.....192 .

.....
Medical Officer of Health.

To.....

.....

CONFIDENTIAL. **FORM H.**

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM,

.....*192*

To Superintendent,

.....Sunday School.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that .....
of....., attending your Sunday School is suffering from an Infectious disease, and I request that you will co-operate with me in preventing the spread of infection by excluding all members of the household till further notice, which will be sent you later.

Yours faithfully,

Medical Officer of Health.

CONFIDENTIAL. **FORM I.**

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM,

.....*192*

To Superintendent,

.....Sunday School.

Dear Sir,

With reference to previous note (Form H.) sent you with regard to ..... of ...., I have to inform you that the house referred to is now clear of infection, and children may safely attend Sunday School from.....

Yours faithfully,

Medical Officer of Health.

FORM J.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM.

In accordance with Section 14 of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, the following Sections are quoted for the information of those concerned.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (PREVENTION) ACT, 1890.

Penalty on Persons ceasing to occupy Houses without previous Disinfection or giving Notice to Owner, or Persons making False Answers.

SEC. 7.—Every person who shall cease to occupy any house, room, or part of a house, in which any person has within six weeks previously been suffering from any infectious disease without having such house, room or part of a house, and all articles therein liable to retain infection, disinfected to the satisfaction of a registered medical practitioner, as testified by a certificate signed by him, or without first giving to the owner of such house, room, or part of a house, notice of the previous existence of such disease, and every person ceasing to occupy any house, room, or part of a house, and who on being questioned by the owner thereof, or by any person negotiating for the hire of such house, room, or part of a house, as to the fact of there having within six weeks previously been therein any person suffering from any infectious disease, knowingly makes a false answer to such question shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

Infectious Rubbish thrown into Ashpits, etc., to be disinfected.

SEC. 13.—Any person who shall knowingly cast, or cause, or permit to be cast, into any ashpit, ashtub, or other receptacle for the deposit of refuse matter any infectious rubbish without previous disinfection, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE INQUIRY.

Date of inquiry

Name of Patient *Age*

No. of Cases *Address*

Disease *Date of first feeling Illness*

No. of Household above 12 years *Under*

No. of Dwelling Rooms *Sick Room Isolated*

What doing to prevent spread

Patient's Occupation *at*

Other Resident's Occupation *at*

Other cases of disease in family or neighbours

Suspected source of infection

Any person from infected family visited house

Milk from

Children attend School at

Sunday School

Laundress

Any Clothes bought or made up within fortnight

Name and Address

Any Business in house

Overcrowded *Ventilation of house and rooms*

Premises *Ashpit distance* *Open, covered*

Foul *Ashpit, Privy, or W.C.* *Ventilated*

Yard paved or cemented *Drainage to back or front*

In stone or glazed pipes *Improperly trapped*

Water from

Direct from main or cistern

Any animals kept

Complaint of bad smell